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COPYREMARKS

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for approving the Drawings submitted May 25, 2004.

Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 7 has been amended to correct a spelling error. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to an electronic endoscope system which allows patient data to be easily and quickly displayed, together with an endoscope image, on a monitor during the examination of a patient. The endoscope system of the present invention includes a monitor that switches between an endoscope image display scene and a patient data list display scene. When a user selects a patient from the patient data list display scene, the monitor switches to the endoscope image display scene, which displays individual patient data together with an associated endoscope image.

In the Office Action of August 12, 2004, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,584) in view of Kanno et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,566). In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Nishikori disclosed all of the limitations of claims 1 and 7, except for the recited feature of the display control system displaying individual patient data together with an endoscope image on the monitor. The Examiner also asserted that Kanno teaches that it is well known in the art to display patient data together with image data, and stated that it would have been obvious to combine the references, in order to obtain an apparatus

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that provides as much information as possible to the user. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Nishikori is directed towards an endoscope system which includes a display 151 with a touch panel 2 for centralized operation of the system. See col. 5, lines 25-39 and col. 6, lines 38-44. Nishikori's endoscope system further includes a monitor 218 which displays an endoscope image. See col. 18, line 65 to col. 19, line 21.

Claims 1 and 7 of the present invention recite a scene-changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope image display scene and a patient data list display scene. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not disclosed in the applied prior art.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Nishikori's endoscope system includes a scene changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope image display scene and a patient data list display scene, and cited Figures 14B, 15D and 15F in support thereof. However, none of the scenes illustrated in these Figures include an endoscope image display. These Figures show scenes which are displayed on the screen of an operation computer 3. See col. 10, lines 52-54. As illustrated in Figure 3, Nishikori's endoscope system includes a monitor 13 for indicating an endoscope image that is separate or distinct from the operation computer 3.

Nor do the modes of Nishikori correspond to the scenes recited in the claims. Nishikori discloses, at col. 10, lines 55-61, that a CV-100 mode is a VSC control mode for using an electronic endoscope, a CCU or light source CCU mode is a light source

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control mode for connecting an electronic endoscope, and an OES mode is a light source control mode with a TV camera mounted to a fiberscope. Therefore, Applicants submit that Nishikori's endoscope system does not include a scene changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope image display scene and a patient data list display scene, as recited in claims 1 and 7.

Kanno is also directed towards an endoscope system. Although Kanno discusses the content of a patient data file (see col. 22, lines 53-54), Kanno fails to disclose displaying a patient data list on a monitor, much less changing a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope image display scene and a patient data list display scene.

Neither Nishikori nor Kanno disclose a scene changing system that changes a scene displayed on the monitor between an endoscope image display scene and a patient data list display scene in the claimed combination. Thus the combination cannot render the claims unpatentable.

Moreover, the Examiner has not set forth a proper motivation for the proposed combination. The asserted reason "since it is well known to do so" is merely the desired conclusion, rather than the evidentiary basis required to support a combination rejection. Accordingly, for each of the above reasons and certainly for all of the above reasons, the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested. Dependent claims 2-6 and 8-12 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependence on claims 1 and 7.

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Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

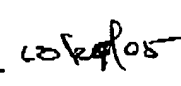
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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